1: Holmberg--14 (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 391, 412

"The digging stick (síri)—the only agricultural tool—is made by the men from chonta palm. After a section of wood has been removed from the tree, it is planed to the desired shape with a mollusk shell called urúkwa. The digging stick is about 3 feet in length, 3 inches in width, and about an inch in thickness. The bottom end is sharpened so as to make it a more effective tool. The digging stick is used principally in planting and tilling, in grinding corn, in digging out clay for pots and in extracting palm cabbage and honey."

1: Holmberg--14 [2] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 412, 391

"The Siriono construct a gouging tool by hafting an incisor tooth of an agouti or paca onto a femur of a howler monkey. This tool is employed principally to gouge out the nock in the reinforcing plug which is inserted in the feathered end of the arrow. In using the tool the handle is grasped in the right hand with the tooth down. The plug is held in the left hand, and the tool is worked back and forth over it until a groove large enough to hold the bowstring is made. This tool is also employed in making holes in the root ends of the animal teeth from which necklaces are strung."

1: Holmberg--14 [3] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 412, 391, 321

"Some mention should also be made of the use of a mollusk shell, called urúkwa, and a mussel shell, called hítai, as tools. The former is used by the men as a plane in making digging sticks, spindles, and bows, while the latter is employed by the women to smooth out the clay when making pots. The mandible (with teeth) of the palometa fish also serves as a tool, being employed to sever the aftershafts of the feathers glued on arrows. Any piece of bamboo serves for a knife, but no work is done in bone, horn shell, stone, or metal. European axes and machetes have been introduced to those bands which have had contact, but under aboriginal conditions European tools are rarely encountered."

1: Holmberg--27 (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
177, 412

"Now that iron tools have been introduced, many of the wild fruit trees of the area are being destroyed, because the natives find it easier to cut them down than to climb them when harvesting fruits."

1: Holmberg--29 [3] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 241, 412, 177

"No magical practice accompanies either the sowing or the harvesting of crops, and what planting is done is largely a family affair and not an activity in which all members of the band cooperatively participate. Both man and wife work jointly in clearing and burning over a small plot, frequently just outside of the house, in which they sow, also cooperatively, a few plants or seeds of maize, manioc, papaya, camotes, cotton, and tobacco. These plots are seldom over 50 feet square, and most of the work in them is done with the digging stick, the only agricultural tool. Today, of course, machetes are commonly employed in clearing a plot, but the digging stick is still extensively used in planting."

3: Métraux--113 [6] (no date) 1942 Siriono
116, 412

"Snail shells and piranha teeth served as tools for making weapons. An aguti incisor hafted to a long bone was used for drilling, chiseling, and cutting."

4: Ryden--58-59 (1939) 1941 Siriono
412

"Into the opposite end of the arrow-shaft is driven a conical plug, auda, the pointed end of which has been smeared over with iriti (fig. 20F). In the basal end of this plug there is a notch for the string, cut out with a tool known to the [59] Siriono Indians as sirasi. This consists of a rodent tooth tied on to a handle of monkey bone (fig. 24)[MPK: not reproduced for this file]."

4: Ryden--59 (1939) 1941 Siriono
412

"For arrow-feathers the broader vane of the wing-feather of a bird known to the Siriono as yacú (in Spanish, pava) are almost always used. With the sharp-toothed jawbone of a palometa fish (fig. 24) the abovementioned part of the feather is cut away from the quill, beginning at the point and cutting towards the broader end (fig. 60 A) [MPK: not reproduced for this file]."

4: Ryden--71 (1939) 1941 Siriono
116, 412

"The only tools possessed by the Siriono consist of the above-mentioned chisel-like object known as sirasi, which is a rodent's tooth shafted with the bone of a monkey, pieces of shell or mussel, knives adapted from the jawbone of the palometa fish, and awls made of the caudal spine of the ray. Pieces of shell are used more or less as planes in working wood. A shell and a mussel in my collection Dr. NILS HJ. ODHNER has identified as Ampullaria bridgesi Reeve and Anodontites trigonus Spix. The latter is also used in pottery-making."

116, 412, 171

"WEGNER (1934, p. 24) has pointed out that the sirasi [MPK: a shafted rodent's tooth] is also used among the Guayaqui Indians, whose culture and mode of life present a primitiveness almost identical with that of the Siriono. I feel it however incumbent to stress that this implement is used among several other tribes in the forest region of South America who possess a more highly developed culture, e.g. the Huanyam and the Huari (NORDENSKIÖLD 1924, p. 115); SALATHE (1932, p. 306, fig. 16) also depicts the implement in question from the Karimé Indians; KRAUSE (1911, p. 270, fig. 122) from the Karaja and the Savaje (p. 361, fig. 197); v.d. STEINEN (1897, pp. 199 and 375) from the source region of the Xingu, from the Bororo and other tribes, and I have myself seen it used among the Moré Indians on the Guaporé river. In these different instances, only the material for the handle varies. This rodent's tooth implement, as also the knife of palometa jawbone, would herefore seem to belong to the primitive cultures of the South American forest region, as well as to tribes of more advanced culture, although among the latter its use is occasionally specialized, as, e.g., among the [72] Karaja and the Savaje, who use it for grooving their clubs. The tribes among whom it is still found, -- at all events at the time when their use of the rodent's tooth implement was observed -- are such as were living isolated and almost out of touch with the whites. The introduction or iron tools is especially apt to supersede implements of the rodent's tooth type, and it may therefore well be supposed that the latter formerly had a wider distribution than it is now possible to ascertain. One can frequently observe that when Indians are

using an ordinary knife for carving wood, etc., they move the knife towards the body instead of, as white men generally do, away from the body. Probably this may be accounted for by the Indians formerly having used the hafted rodent's tooth implement with which it was necessary to work towards the body.

As regards the use of shell as tools, this also prevailed among the mound-builders in the present Siriono region."

5: Radwan--295 T-3 (1928?) 1928 Siriono
116, 302, 304, 321, 412

With the help of resin, which they also use to anchor feathers in their hair, they tear out the eye-brows and forehead hair. Each according to his taste, young and old, cut their hair short, for which mussel shells serve as scissors. Such a shearing claims a whole day. By scratching with the mussel shells, the Sirionos achieve scars (tattoos) on the upper arms and lower legs.